



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

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Site

October 25, 1993

Dean Fowler, Project Manager  
Spokane County Utilities  
1026 West Broadway  
Spokane, WA 99260-0180

Dear Dean,

Enclosed is a copy of the "Site Review and Update" report for the Colbert Landfill that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received from the Agency For Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This is a follow-up report on the Health Assessment that was done earlier by ATSDR.

The EPA review of the report did not find any significant errors that would require comment. However, if you identify any issues with this document, please give me a call at, 206-553-7177.

Sincerely,

Neil E. Thompson  
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mike Kuntz, Ecology





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Atlanta GA 30333

October 25, 1993

Neil Thompson  
EPA Region X  
1200 Sixth Ave. HW-113  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. ~~Neil~~ Thompson

Enclosed is the ATSDR Site Review and Update (SRU) for the Colbert Landfill, Colbert WA. The document was prepared by the Washington State Health Department under a Cooperative Agreement with ATSDR.

Although, the SRU may contain recommendations directed at the EPA and other agencies, the primary purpose of the SRU is to perform a review of current site conditions and recommend further actions for ATSDR to take at the site. An extensive evaluation of available data is not done for the SRU. If extensive evaluation is necessary due to the new information, the SRU will recommend that a health consultation or a public health assessment be performed. A written response is necessary only if significant errors are noted which should change the conclusions and recommendations made in the document.

If you have any questions please contact me at 553-5114.

Sincerely,

Richard Robinson  
Regional Representative

cc: ATSDR/RIME

**SITE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

**COLBERT LANDFILL**

**COLBERT, SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**CERCLIS NO. WAD980514541**

**Prepared by  
Washington State Department of Health  
Under Cooperative Agreement with the  
Agency For Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

## SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Colbert Landfill is located 15 miles north of Spokane, Washington near the town of Colbert. The Colbert Landfill lies in a valley surrounded by bluffs which slope down to the Little Spokane River to the west about 0.5 miles away. Two tributaries of the river, Little Deep Creek, and Peone Creek, are located about 3 miles and 5 miles south of the site respectively. The site covers 40 acres, and is owned by Spokane County, which operated the site as a landfill from 1968 to 1986. Key Tronics Corporation, (KTC) and Fairchild Air Force Base disposed of solvents at the landfill for several years ending in 1980. Solvents were brought to the site in drums, then poured into trenches to be mixed with the soil and municipal refuse. It is estimated several hundred gallons a month of mixed solvents were disposed of in this manner. In 1980, residents near the landfill complained to the Washington State Department of Ecology about the disposal practices at the landfill. Later that year sampling showed several private drinking water wells were contaminated with solvents, primarily 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). In 1984, Spokane County and KTC began to supply bottled drinking water to those residents whose wells were contaminated with greater than 200 ug/l of TCA. In 1985, connection to a public water system was made available to residents with contaminated wells. In May 1986, a draft Remedial Investigation was released, and in May 1987, a draft Feasibility Study was released. A Record of Decision was reached in September 1987. ATSDR prepared a Health Assessment (HA) for the site in July 1988.

The pathway of concern for potential adverse health effects is the groundwater, which is contaminated with several volatile organic chemicals. Potential exposures could have occurred from ingestion or inhalation of volatile organic compounds from contaminated groundwater and from dermal exposure to groundwater. Approximately 1500 people live within three miles from the site.

Past community concerns have included:

1. Decreased property values
2. Adverse effects on the Little Spokane River
3. Air pollution from the stripping towers during remediation
4. Well drawdown during remediation
5. Need for a private well monitoring program
6. Very slow cleanup process.

The 1988 HA found the site to be a "Potential Public Health Concern" based on the possible exposure to hazardous substances at concentrations which may result in adverse health effects. The HA further states that human exposures to contaminated groundwater may occur or be occurring via ingestion and or inhalation and dermal absorption. The HA recommended:

1. Use indicator other than TCA for determining alternate water supply need.
2. Obtain complete well survey of area.
3. Obtain demographic information

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the groundwater monitoring program to determine if any new wells become contaminated. Immediately supply alternate water system to all affected residences.
2. Prepare another Site Review and Update when remediation of the site is complete.

### Health Activities Recommendation Panel Recommendations:

The data and information developed in this Site Review and Update have been evaluated to determine if follow-up actions may be indicated. No further public health actions are indicated at this time.

## DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. Remedial Investigation for the Colbert Landfill, Colbert Washington, Golder and Associates, May 1987.
2. Community Relations Plan For Colbert Landfill, USEPA, Dec 1990.
3. Phase II Remedial Design/Remedial Action Colbert Landfill, Landau Associates Inc., Feb 26 1993.
4. Health Assessment for Colbert Landfill, ATSDR, July 25, 1988.